

**Suggested Closing Remarks**  
**Gerry Porta, USAID/OEDG**  
**Financial Investigation Training Course**  
**Philippine Anti-Graft Commission**  
**March 6, 2007, 3:00 p.m.**

Chairperson Connie de Guzman;

Esteemed representatives of key government agencies;

Colleagues in development, friends, ladies and gentlemen;

Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

Thank you very much for inviting me to the closing program of this Financial Investigation Training Course. I am honored to be with all of you today to help conclude this important occasion.

First, I would like to congratulate the Philippine Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), in

particular Chairperson Connie de Guzman for her vision and initiative in developing a capacity building program for PAGC investigators and partners in key government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Education and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The US Government through USAID'S Rule of Law Effectiveness (ROLE) Project assisted PAGC implement this comprehensive 10-day training activity.

ROLE worked with PAGC to design the financial investigation course based on the needs of the target participants. Although I understand many among you already have legal backgrounds, we hope that the mix of topics which included investigative techniques, surveillance, interviewing skills, evidence and procedural law, and the vulnerabilities of procurement procedures

provided all of you with the additional skills necessary to help you do an even more effective job in investigating alleged cases of corruption.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our resource speakers from the National Bureau of Investigation, Anti-Money Laundering Council and the Department of Justice who shared both their time and expertise with all of you. It is noteworthy that most of these resource persons were also graduates of ROLE-supported training of trainers programs in the past. I am certain that many in this room also possess the potential to become trainers in the future.

We are closing this financial investigation training activity but this is not the end. This is the beginning of a capacity building program that will include courses in program management and performance monitoring in the near future. We hope to continue supporting

you in these endeavors and look forward to hearing about your accomplishments as you apply the skills imparted by these training courses.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat.